

Amendments to the Claims

Please replace all prior versions of the claims in the application with the following claim listing:

1. (Currently amended) A heterodimeric fusion protein comprising a first and a second chimeric chain, said first chimeric chain comprising a portion of an Ig heavy chain linked by a peptide bond to a ~~first~~ p35 subunit of interleukin-12 (IL-12), said second chimeric chain comprising a portion of an Ig heavy chain linked by a peptide bond to ~~second~~ a p40 subunit of IL-12, said first and second chimeric chains being linked by a disulfide bond.
2. (Currently Amended) A fusion protein comprising a first chimeric Ig chain comprising a portion of an Ig heavy chain linked by a peptide bond to a ~~first~~ p35 subunit of IL-12, said ~~first~~ p35 subunit of IL-12 being linked to a ~~second~~ p40 subunit of IL-12.
3. (Currently amended) The fusion protein of claim 2 further comprising a second chimeric Ig chain comprising a portion of an Ig heavy chain linked by a peptide bond to a ~~first~~ p35 subunit of IL-12, said ~~first~~ p35 subunit of IL-12 being linked to a ~~second~~ p40 subunit of IL-12, said first and second chimeric chains being linked by a disulfide bond.
- 4-22. (Canceled)
23. (Currently amended) A method of increasing the circulating half-life of IL-12, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) linking a ~~first~~ p35 subunit of IL-12 by a peptide bond to a polypeptide, thereby forming a first chimeric chain, said ~~first~~ p35 subunit of IL-12 being linked to a ~~second~~ p40 subunit of IL-12 by a disulfide bond;
 - (b) linking a ~~first~~ p35 subunit of IL-12 by a peptide bond to a polypeptide, thereby forming a second chimeric chain, said ~~first~~ p35 subunit of IL-12 being linked to a ~~second~~ p40 subunit of IL-12 by a disulfide bond; and

- (c) linking said first and said second chimeric chain by a disulfide bond, thereby forming a heterodimeric fusion protein, said fusion protein having a longer circulating half-life than unlinked ~~first and second~~ p35 and p40 subunits of IL-12.
24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein said first and second polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of a portion of an Ig heavy chain, a portion of an Ig light chain, an antigen, and serum albumin.
25. (New) A fusion protein comprising a first chimeric Ig chain comprising a portion of an Ig heavy chain linked by a peptide bond to a p40 subunit of IL-12, said p40 subunit of IL-12 being linked to a p35 subunit of IL-12.
26. (New) The fusion protein of claim 25 further comprising a second chimeric Ig chain comprising a portion of an Ig heavy chain linked by a peptide bond to a p40 subunit of IL-12, said p40 subunit of IL-12 being linked to a p35 subunit of IL-12, said first and second chimeric chains being linked by a disulfide bond.
27. (New) The fusion protein of claim 25 further comprising a second chimeric Ig chain comprising a portion of an Ig heavy chain linked by a peptide bond to a p35 subunit of IL-12, said p35 subunit of IL-12 being linked to a p40 subunit of IL-12, said first and second chimeric chains being linked by a disulfide bond.